



# 2017 HEAD START REPORT

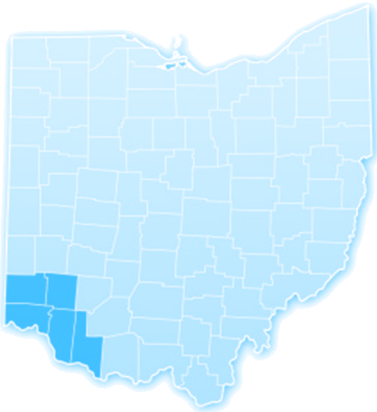
Closing the Achievement Gap for At-Risk Children



**Child Focus, Inc.**  
**Making THE Difference!**  
[www.child-focus.org](http://www.child-focus.org)



# COMPANY INFORMATION



Child Focus, Inc. (CFI) has been the grantee for Clermont County Head Start since 1982, preparing thousands of at-risk children to succeed in school. We strive to deliver excellent services with well-managed programs that involve parents in decision making and prepare children for school.

Celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, Child Focus has grown to be the primary service provider of early learning, mental health, school, foster care, training and community services for Clermont and surrounding communities.

In fiscal year 2016, Child Focus directly served 12,827 children, families and adults and reached over 60,000 people through prevention, training and other community services including Crisis Hotline and Crisis Response Team. A private, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agency, its 320 staff, 947 volunteers and 35 foster families help provide a broad range of early learning, mental health, school, foster care and community services. With forty years of experience in the community, an agency budget of over \$18 million dollars and serving 17 counties.

Our spectrum of services includes outpatient individual, family and group therapy, diagnostic testing, psychiatric services, partial hospitalization, mental health prevention and support services in schools, mobile crisis, management of a county-wide 24-hour crisis hotline (528-SAVE), parenting education and support, foster care, independent living and Life Skills preparation, family stability, Head Start and early learning programs for children ages prenatal to Kindergarten, before and after school programs for K-5, community programs and professional training. CFI provides these services in over 70 schools, pediatric and FQHC offices, juvenile courts, Job and Family Services, other community locations and in hundreds of homes in southwest and southeast Ohio communities.

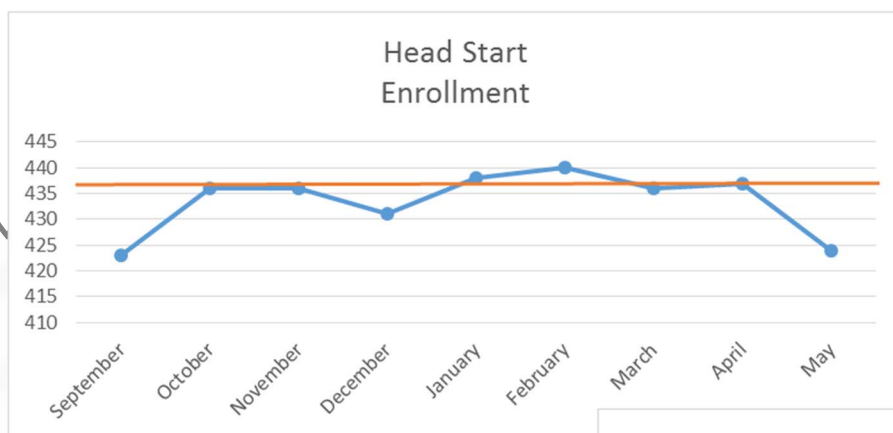
**CFI's mission is to join with communities in improving the quality of life for children, families and adults.** Federal, state and local government grant funds and contracts with other agency and school partners, private fees, insurance and a sliding fee scale allow us to serve our families. We are leaders in the industries of early childhood and behavioral health through our ability to create responsive and innovative programs in collaboration with families, community agencies and institutions. Our early care and education, prevention and treatment programs improve coping mechanisms, provide support, promote school readiness and success and encourage growth and self-sufficiency for the families in our community.

# CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

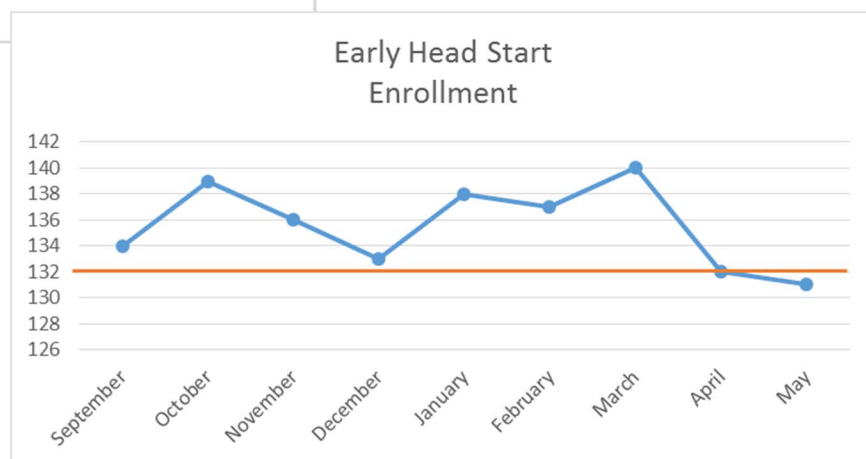
Research shows that by the time children begin kindergarten, significant differences already exist between those from high/middle and low income families. These differences are referred to as “the achievement gap.”

Central to our program's overall approach is a commitment to have all parents in our program act as full partners with us to close the achievement gap and ensure that their children achieve their school readiness goals. Beginning during enrollment, this partnership is supported by the work of the education and family services staff along with offerings for family engagement opportunities throughout the year.

In 2016, Child Focus supported 769 young children from 650 families. Over the course of the year, parents spent over 46,601 hours involved in educational activities designed to supplement their child's education at home. Parents are also critical in supporting our attendance goals. As a program we strive to maintain full enrollment and exceed 85% child attendance.



*The 2016-2017 average monthly attendance was 83% for Head Start and 94% for Early Head Start*





# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Family engagement is key to our overall school readiness approach. As a program, we strive to establish partnerships with families to jointly support the healthy development and education of their children as well as support the individual family goals towards self-sufficiency and family stability. Family advocates and home-visitors work closely with families to identify needs and family goals in four (4) areas: Family Life Practices, Support for Children, Self-sufficiency and support for family members. Together they identify goals in each area and monitor progress towards reaching these goals.

In 2016, families worked on 1,534 goals, meeting or making significant progress on 48% of these goals. Overall progress was made at some level for 78% of the goals identified. Throughout the year, staff offered support to 598 families in the areas of parenting education, health education, emergency crisis, asset building, mental health services, housing, adult education and job training.

Throughout the year, we offered several opportunities to engage in program activities and events as well as individually focus on family goals. These opportunities included:

**Parent Events:** These events offer families the opportunity to discuss the program activities along with spending quality time with the children and connecting with peers. In 2016, we held 4 parent events at each location with a total of 1,481 adults in attendance

**Center Campaigns:** Campaigns help increase awareness around activities critical to early childhood and encourage parent/child interactions. Parents at each center and home-based program selected among an array of topics and decide on the specific goal they will strive to achieve. In 2016 parents engaged in very creative ways to promote reading at home, promote attendance and oral health.

**Fatherhood events:** Centers planned activities to celebrate and engage fathers and father figures involved in the lives of the children we served. This year's events included a bowling outing, a "bird house painting session" and a "build a race car" event.

**Group socialization events:** Early Head Start offered 25 socialization opportunities in 2016-17. These socializations bring families & children together to participate in fun and interactive learning activities that promote early learning.

**At home activities/volunteering:** Parents spend 46,061 hours reading to their child or completing educational activities to support at home learning and the school-home connection. Over 836 volunteers also dedicated their time and resources to support children and families involved in our program.

# CHILD HEALTH & WELLBEING

## HEALTH INDICATORS

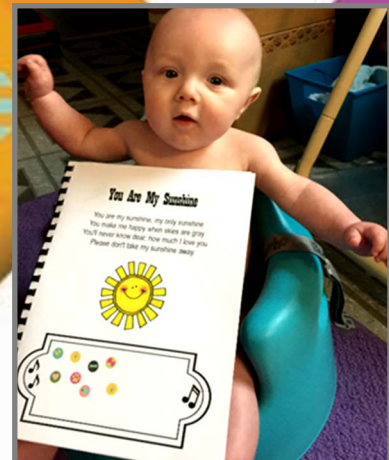
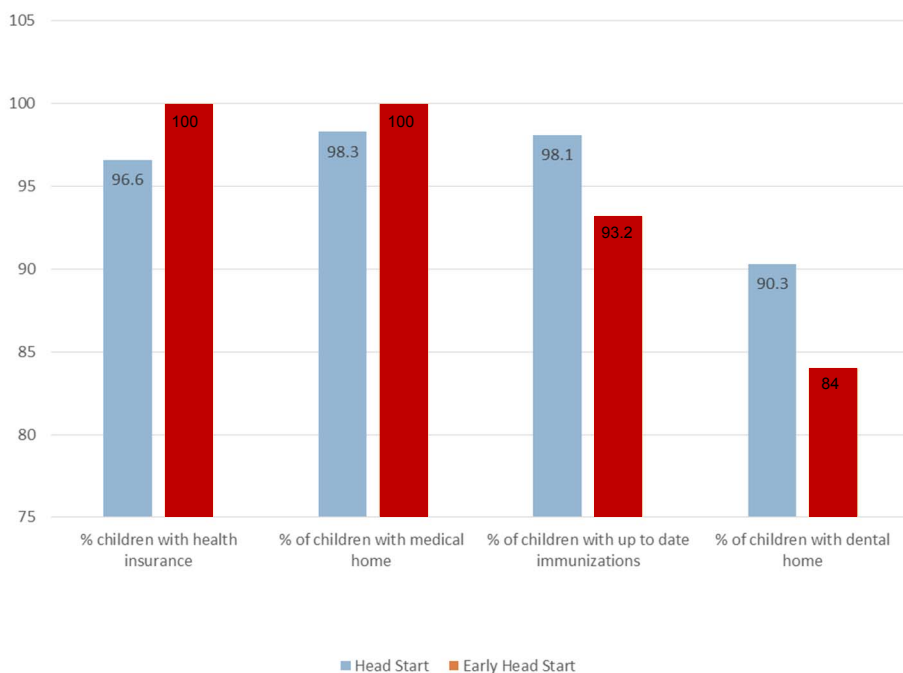
Health screenings are completed for all children enrolled. When children do not pass screenings, parents are assisted to access further evaluation and treatment. As a result, children receive treatment for vision and hearing deficits, low iron levels, or other health concerns that may likely impede a child's ability to learn. Many children are identified each program year as needing glasses to correct vision deficits or are treated for hearing difficulties.

## DENTAL CAMPAIGNS

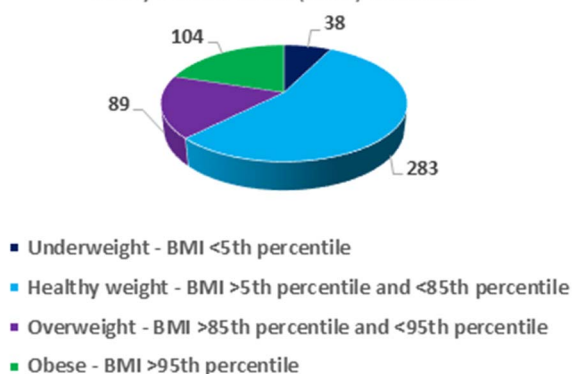
Parents of both Head Start and Early Head Start engaged in dental campaigns aimed at ensuring every child had a completed dental using creative, fun activities for both children and adults. These campaigns were well received, leading to 3 Head Start classrooms and 3 Early Head Start Home Bases achieving 100% of children receiving dental care. Campaign efforts resulted in an increase in the number of children who were up-to-date on preventive dental care of 4% and 11% in Head Start and Early Head Start respectively.

*In 2016-2017, 98% of Head Start and 100% of Early Head Start children had a medical home*

Health Services



Body Mass Index (BMI) Statistics



## CHILDHOOD OBESITY PREVENTION

Childhood obesity has become an important priority for Child Focus. We have been concerned with the high number of children considered overweight or obese based on Body Mass Index (BMI) and are working with parents and the community to create positive change.

*In 2016-2017, 38% of children ages 3-5 had a BMI at or above the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile.*

## IMPROVING CHILDREN'S HEALTH AT HOME

Early childhood obesity continues to be a concern for our program. Promoting physical development, proper nutrition and health is an important part of our work with children. While daily programming incorporates best practices for children in these areas, we realize we must promote healthy habits at home. Our family success roadmap process supports families in implementing healthy habits at home in the areas of nutrition, physical activity, screen time and sugary drinks to promote children's health.



# SCHOOL READINESS

## WHAT IS SCHOOL READINESS?

School readiness refers to the acquisition of competencies, attitudes and behaviors that promote school success at kindergarten entry. Physical health and basic academic knowledge (knowing letters and numbers) promote early learning. In addition, social-emotional skills are essential to school readiness and sustained school success, including the capacity to manage emotions, focus, attention, constructively approach learning tasks and establish positive relationships with peers and teachers.

Children enter Child Focus Head Start with a wide range of skills and abilities. Some are well on their way to kindergarten readiness, while others are missing many of the key fundamental skills they will need to succeed in school and later in life. Child Focus uses a variety of screening tools and assessments to determine each child's developmental level, strengths, and areas for improvement. In 2016-2017 the following school readiness goals were achieved:

### Social & Emotional Development

- 56% of Early Head Start children meet or exceed Social and Emotional Development standards.
- 72% of Head Start children meet or exceed Social and Emotional Development standards.

### Language & Literacy Development

- 80% of Early Head Start children meet or exceed Language & Literacy Development standards.
- 71% of Head Start children meet or exceed Language & Literacy Development standards.

### Cognition & General Knowledge

- 86% of Early Head Start children meet or exceed Cognition & General Development standards.
- 66% of Head Start children meet or exceed Cognition & General Development standards.

### Physical & Developmental Health

- 85% of Early Head Start children meet or exceed Physical & Developmental Health standards.
- 72% of Head Start children meet or exceed Physical & Developmental Health standards.

## THE CLASSROOM ASSESSMENT SCORING SYSTEM (CLASS)

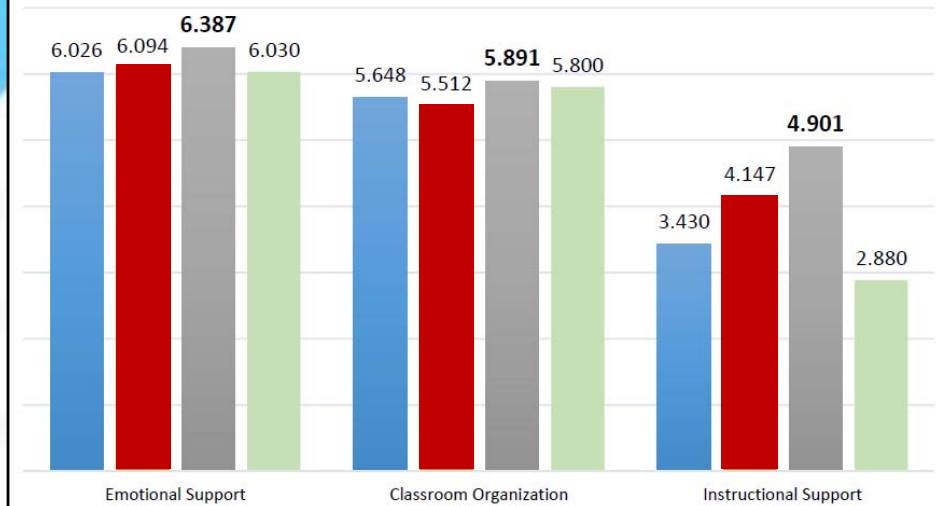
The *Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)* is an observation instrument developed to assess classroom quality through observation and rating of ten (10) dimensions of quality teaching and the learning environment. These dimensions are part of three (3) critical domains: **Emotional Support**, **Instructional Support** and **Classroom Organization**. A Child Focus Inc. team of reliable assessors completes CLASS observations Fall and Spring in every preschool classroom. Results of the CLASS drive teacher goal setting, coaching, and professional development. Child Focus compares its scores with other Head Start programs in Ohio and the nation. **For several consecutive years our scores have been above the national average in all three domains.**

## BRACKEN SCHOOL READINESS ASSESSMENT

Child Focus, Inc. Head Start uses Bracken School Readiness Assessment as a pre/post cognitive test to determine children's knowledge of six basic skills: colors, letters, numbers/counting, sizes, comparisons and shapes.

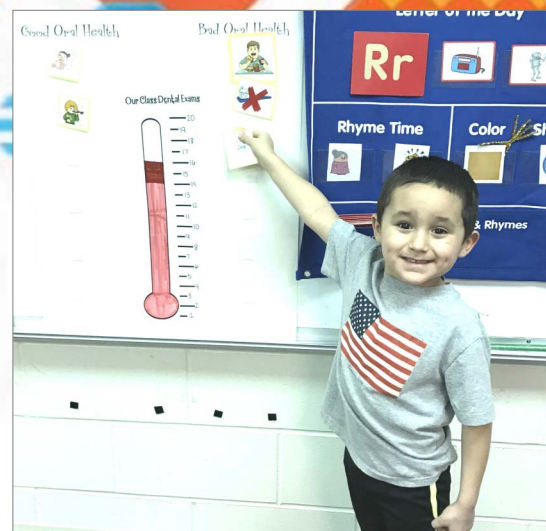
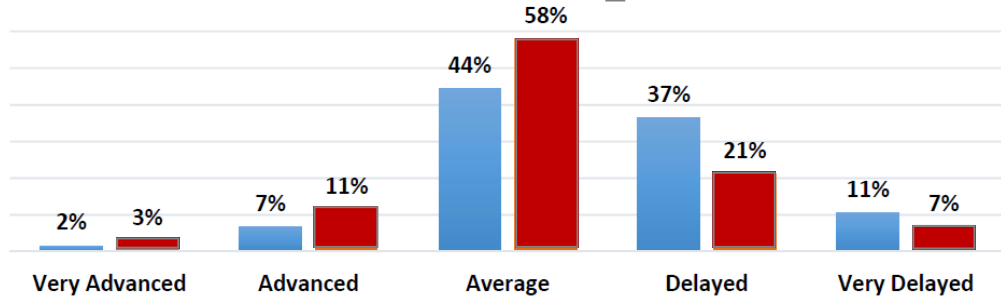
CLASS Scores 2016-2017

■ Fall ■ Winter ■ Spring ■ National Average



Bracken Fall 2016 and Spring 2017  
Test Comparisons

■ Pre Bracken ■ Post Bracken



Head Start children  
more than doubled  
their language and  
literacy scores from  
spring to fall

1,027 volunteers  
generated \$730,320  
of Federal inkind

# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Community volunteers played a vital role in supporting Head Start children and families. Companies like **PNC Bank, Park National Bank, Mercy Health Center and The Clermont County Public Library** have donated their time and staff to provide valuable learning and experiential activities for children and families.

Child Focus would also like to thank **Kroger, Channel 9** and all community supporters for the **Channel 9 Toy Drive at Kroger Eastgate!** Thank you to Channel 9's staff including reporters Clyde Gray and Julie O'Neill and Warm 98/ Cumulus Radio's Bobbi Maxwell, Kroger's, Mt. Moriah Church, PPG, Lerner Sampson & Rothfuss Law Firm and Child Focus staff, volunteers, board members and other generous supporters for helping sponsor all 192 Giving Tree families with 435 children and youth ages birth to 18! With their help we were able to provide each family with grocery and gas gift cards, cleaning supplies, coats, clothing, shoes/boots, hats, gloves, toys and books to needy families this holiday season! Special thanks also goes to **Mt. Moriah Church, Sharefax Credit Union, Creative Retirement Services, Cherry Grove United Methodist Church, Cincinnati Eastside Rotary, Newtonsville Methodist Church and Lerner Sampson & Rothfuss** for sponsoring multiple families this year!



# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

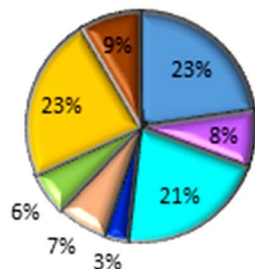
## FEDERAL REVIEW

Based on information gathered during the most recent Federal Review conducted November 2013, it was determined that the Child Focus Head Start and Early Head Start programs were in compliance with all applicable Head Start Performance standards, laws, regulations and policy requirements. Accordingly no action was required. Several areas of strength were noted in the final report received from the Office of Head Start. Child Focus was commended for its ability to leverage resources from a number of partnerships to increase financial and program support in addressing its program goals and objectives. The report also highlighted as a strength the ongoing monitoring system we have in place to make data-driven decisions and enhance program quality. Also noted as a strength was the research-based approach to classroom behavior management used with our programs.

## AUDIT

In addition to Head Start and Early Head Start, Child Focus provides Community Mental Health, Foster Care and Community Services. The final, agency-wide audit report for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2017 was conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained the Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Controller General of the United States; and OMB Uniform Guidance. The audit did not contain any non-compliances, any questioned costs, any instances of non-compliance with any funding sources, or reveal any material weaknesses in the agency's internal control system.

**FY 2017 Total Revenues**



- CMH Clermont
- CMH Outreach
- CMH Special Population
- Crisis Programs
- OHC
- Other EC Programs
- Federal Head Start
- Early Head Start

**FY 2017 Federal Head Start & Early Head Start**

